

Energy

Energy touches all our lives. In almost everything we do, whether it's driving to work, heating our homes, or working on a computer, we depend on a reliable supply of energy. Just as energy is important to us individually, it also influences our lives collectively. It impacts our economy, our national security, as well as the quality of the air we breathe and water we drink. In an increasingly industrialized world, the competition among nations for limited supplies of existing energy resources is growing.

For our own national interest and to protect the environment in our communities and the world, the United States must lead the way in promoting viable, sustainable, renewable energy resources.

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Energy Independence

In 2005, Rep. Eshoo worked with Rep. Nancy Pelosi, now Speaker of the House, and business and academic leaders from Silicon Valley to develop the Democratic Innovation Agenda. Among other things, the Agenda pledges that "America will achieve energy independence from Middle East oil in the next 10 years."

The Agenda calls for substantially reducing the use of petroleum-based fuels by rapidly expanding production and distribution of sustainable bio-based fuels, such as ethanol derived from cellulosic sources, and by deploying new engine technologies for fuel-flexible, hybrid, plug-in hybrid and biodiesel vehicles.

The Agenda also will create a new initiative within the Department of Energy to provide seed money for fundamental research needed to develop high-risk, high-reward technologies and build markets for the next generation of revolutionary energy technologies, such as those emerging from biotechnology, nanotechnology, solar, and fuel-cell research.

To advance this Agenda, Rep. Eshoo cosponsored H.R. 6, the Creating Long-Term Energy Alternatives for the Nation (CLEAN) Energy Act. The bill repeals \$14 billion in subsidies and royalty relief for the oil and gas industry and commits those dollars toward renewable energy and energy efficiency. The bill passed the House and is now pending in the

Senate.

Rep. Eshoo is also a cosponsor of H.R. 364, the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy Act, which will create an agency within the Department of Energy to lead the research effort for new sources of energy.

- Eshoo's Floor Statement on H.R. 3321, the New Direction for Energy Independence Act

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Fuel Economy Standards

Seventy percent of the fuel burned today is used in transportation, largely in passenger vehicles. It's essential that fuel economy becomes a national priority in order to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and decrease the nation's dependence on oil imports.

Rep. Eshoo has consistently led the effort to raise the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for automakers. She is an original cosponsor of H.R. 1506, the Fuel Economy Reform Act, which will raise fuel economy standards by 4 percent per year in order to reach a target of 35 miles per gallon by 2018. After 2018, the government will be required to update standards annually.

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Renewable Energy

California is pioneering a national movement to promote renewable resources for the generation of electricity. Rep. Eshoo was a supporter of the state effort led by former state Sen. Byron Sher to increase reliance on renewable energy. She has also worked to advance this effort on the federal level, cosponsoring H.R. 969, a bill that will prescribe guidelines for a federal Renewable Energy Standard (RES). The RES will gradually increase the percentage of energy that must come from renewable sources, eventually requiring that 20% of all electricity generated in the United States come from renewable resources by the year 2020.

A provision similar to H.R. 969 is part of H.R. 1590, the Safe Climate Act, a greenhouse gas emission reduction bill that Rep. Eshoo has also cosponsored.

Rep. Eshoo is also a cosponsor of H.R. 550, the Securing America's Energy Independence Act, a bill that will extend and

improve expiring tax credits for homeowners and businesses that purchase fuel cell and photovoltaic (solar) equipment.

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Energy Prices

The costs of heating and cooling our homes and filling our gas tanks have been growing. Although these prices are sometimes exacerbated by natural disasters and supply disruptions, they have not always been justifiable, particularly in comparison to the record profits reported by leading energy companies.

California's Energy Crisis

Rep. Eshoo has also been a leader in the effort to secure refunds from electricity suppliers who manipulated the markets to make record profits in 2000-2001. During the House's consideration of the Energy Policy Act in 2005, she offered an amendment to secure an additional \$1 billion to \$2 billion in refunds for California. (The amendment failed in the Committee on Energy and Commerce.)

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